

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability
Friday, January 8, 2010
Meeting Summary

Introduction

- Co-chair Herb Guenther called the meeting to order. He welcomed all of the panel members along with the members of the public. He added that this is the first time that the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, and the Arizona Corporation Commission have joined together to discuss water policies in this capacity. The members of the panel went around the table to introduce themselves.
- Co-chair Kristin Mayes welcomed all of the attendees to the meeting.
- Co-chair Benjamin Grumbles welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He stated that this panel must work together for the purpose of water reuse for short-term and long-term water sustainability. He added that is important that the panel receive input from public and outside entities, and stated that the governor's office will be very involved and is very supportive of this Panel.

Overview of the Purpose of the Blue Ribbon Panel

(Discussed Overview Handout)

- Co-chair Guenther stated that at this early stage of the process, there will be adjustments made in membership of the Panel. He added that most of the work on this Panel will take place in the working groups that will be formed, and all interested parties are welcome to join the working groups. He also stated that there would be a call to the public towards the end of the meeting.
- The purpose of this Panel is to find ways to conserve, recycle, and reuse water so that Arizona can move toward obtaining a sustainable water supply.
- Natural Resource Policy Advisor to the Governor Mike Anable stated that the Governor's Office is in support of this Panel, and asked if the Panel would be a voting Panel. Co-chair Guenther responded that the Panel will make decisions on a consensus basis.
- Co-chair Mayes stated that the ACC is in support of the goals of this panel and that it takes an aggressive stand on reclaimed water. The ACC requires that water providers implement ADWR's Best Management Practices.
- Co-chair Mayes asked if the universities should be asked to assist the panel.

Discussion of Goals, Process and Desired Results

The goals of the Panel were summarized by the Co-chairs (Overview Handout)

- Goal #1- Staff will modify language regarding the proposed goal of 40% of water use derived from reclaimed and recycled water by the municipal and industrial sector by 2030. (delete "statewide proportion")
- Goal #2- Staff will modify the language to remove the concept of water use for energy transmission (change "transmit" to "provide")
- Panel members stated that the goal of using 40% of effluent is already attained in Tucson and Phoenix
- Include rainwater harvesting, gray water and storm water harvesting

- Recognize that effluent recharge constitutes a form of reuse
- Examine details of effluent use within the state
- Consider whether protection of key water supplies (eg. reservoirs, streams, etc) should be included to meet the energy needs of the state
- Az Game & Fish asked whether reference to “wildlife areas” was meant to conform to its definition of the term or if it would include instream wildlife areas as well as discrete facilities such as the Tres Rios Project. Chairs stated that they are open to consider the less restrictive concept.

Structure

- Executive Panel consists of three Co-chairs; Benjamin Grumbles ADEQ Director, Herb Guenther ADWR Director, and Kristin Mayes ACC Chairman
- Panel consists of about 40 appointed members representing Legislative leadership, State Agencies, Local Governments, County Governments, Tribal Governments, Federal Government, and Universities
- Conceptual Working Groups are open to all interested parties.

Timing

- The goal of the Panel is to have the Interim Report due by June 2010 and the Final Report due by November 2010.

Overview of the Arizona Water Atlas and Water Data Use

(Arizona Water Atlas Power Point Presentation & Fact Sheet)

ADWR Resources Assessment Planning Manager Linda Stitzer gave a presentation on the Arizona Water Atlas.

- Representative Barnes stated that the Arizona Water Atlas only covers past water use and demand, and asked if the Arizona Water Atlas will show future water demand when it is finalized?
- Ms. Stitzer responded that the Active Management Area Water Use and Demand Assessment Reports that ADWR is currently working on, reports projected future water demand.

Next Steps and Future Meetings and Agendas

- The next meeting date is Friday, February 5, 2010, at 10:00AM. The meeting location at ADEQ. There will be a call in telephone line available for Panel members that are not able to attend the meeting in person. Meetings will be held monthly, on the First Friday of the month.
- Co-chair Grumbles stated that this is an important effort and the Panel should not be conformed by current legal terms and current policies, they should look coming up with new ideas.
- Trevor Hill stated that the Panel should not lose focus on its purpose of the long term sustainability of Arizona’s water supplies, and added that the task of defining “terms” should be assigned to the Education and Outreach Work Group.
- Representative Barnes proposed that the Panel develop a glossary of terms for use by the panel. The glossary could later be used for legislation.

- Representative Barnes asked who would be the Panel interface if people have any suggestions for future meeting agenda items or future guest speakers. Co-chair Guenther responded that they should contact the Co-chairs directly.
- Ms. Fabritz-Whitney stated that ADWR is working on creating a Blue Ribbon Panel webpage, where you will be able to access meeting information and staff contact information. The webpage will be available on Monday.
- Co-chair Guenther made a call to the public. There was no response.